

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6784

UNCLAS AMMAN 0470

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA (PEDERSEN, RICHARD F.)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US TRUST COMPANY OFFICERS TO JORDAN

1. ON JANUARY 26, DR. NURI SHAFIQ, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT TO PRIME MINISTER OF JORDAN, REQUESTED DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER OF COMMERCIAL CABLE SHAFIQ HAD RECEIVED FROM RICHARD F. PEDERSEN OF US TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK. SHAFIQ MET WITH U.S. TRUST OFFICERS ON RECENT TRIP TO U.S. AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF U.S. TRUST ADVISING GOJ ON PENSION MATTERS.

2. CABLE RECALLS RECENT MEETING BETWEEN SHAFIQ AND US TRUST OFFICERS IN NEW YORK AND ADVISES SHAFIQ THAT PEDERSEN AND JAMES O'LEARY, VICE CHAIRMAN OF US TRUST BOARD, WILL "MAKE BUSINESS TRIP TO ARAB COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY", VISITING AMMAN FEBRUARY 21 AND 22. PURPOSE OF VISIT TO AMMAN WILL BE TO DISCUSS GOJ PENSION SYSTEM AND CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF BOTH LOCAL BRANCH AND REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

3. ACCORDING TO CABLE, PEDERSEN INDEPENDENTLY ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH JORDANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE, GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK, AND HEAD OF ARAB BANK. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH THESE INSTITUTIONS AND LEARNED THAT ONLY MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS RECEIVED COMMUNICATION FROM US TRUST. CABLE ALSO STATES THAT "US EMBASSY IS BEING REQUESTED TO GIVE US ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING SCHEDULE." EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED SUCH REQUEST.

4. AS RESULT OF DISCUSSION WITH SHAFIQ, IT APPEARS THAT IN ADDITION TO THREE APPOINTMENTS INDICATED PARA 3 ABOVE, CALLS ON GOJ BUDGET DIRECTOR AND SOON TO BE NAMED DIRECTOR OF GOJ PENSION

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FUND WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE. IF DESIRED, APPOINTMENTS

WITH LOCAL FNCB AND/OR CHASE MANHATTAN BRANCH MANAGERS COULD ALSO BE ARRANGED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (ASSUME PEDERSON, FORMER COUNSELLOR OF DEPARTMENT

AND AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO AMBASSADOR PICKERING.)

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PEDERSEN TO CONFIRM DATES HE AND O'LEARY INTEND TO BE IN AMMAN AND ADVISE US TO TIME OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW IF WE SHOULD SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS SUGGESTED ABOVE ON THEIR BEHALF . WITH PRESENT DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN AMMAN, WILL PEDERSEN AND O'LEARY NEED ASSIST-ANCE

IN GETTING RESERVATIONS? SINCE THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE LOCALLY ON US TRUST COMPANY, REQUEST ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS ON FIRM'S EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES TO ADVISE GOJ ON MANAGEMENT OF ITS PENSION FUND.

PICKERING

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